



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH PRESS RELEASE

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Insurance Program for Workers With Disabilities Debuts

'Employed Individuals with Disabilities Program' provides incentive

BALTIMORE, MD (March 31, 2006) – A new program designed to provide health insurance to working Maryland citizens with disabilities will debut on April 1, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) today announced.

“Individuals with disabilities can live independent, productive lives in their communities when provided with the right support,” said Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. “Programs such as this further the fact that individuals with disabilities are best served when they can exercise choices throughout every aspect of the service delivery process.”

Called the *Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) Program*, this initiative will provide coverage to approximately 1,500 individuals. Previously, the potential loss of health benefits often served as a barrier to employment for people with disabilities.

“People with disabilities should not have to choose between health care and professional goals,” said DHMH Secretary S. Anthony McCann. “This program provides an incentive for individuals with disabilities to continue to work, and at the same time, receive health benefits for a small fee.”

To be eligible for the EID Program, an individual must:

- Have/had a Social Security determination of a disability (SSI or SSDI);
- Be 18-64 years of age;
- Receive countable income earnings up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level. (In 2006, roughly \$30,000 for one person; \$40,000 for couples.);
- Be employed and able to furnish proof of employment; and

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- Possess no more than \$10,000 in resources (exclusive of home ownership and the first \$4,000 in a retirement account).

The cost to enroll in the EID Program is \$75 for every six months of coverage. Those who cannot afford the fee may request a waiver of this charge.

Individuals will be eligible for full Medicaid benefits, including inpatient and outpatient care, physician and clinic visits, and prescription drugs. Personal care services will be available at home and in the workplace.

Additionally, if an enrollee no longer meets the employment criteria due to sickness or certain other circumstances, he/she will continue to receive coverage for a grace period of four months after the loss of employment.

To request an application packet or to get more information about eligibility and enrollment, please call the EID toll-free hotline at 1-866-373-9651 or the TTY line at 1-866-373-9652.

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